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Report says U.S. invites tech piracy

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Soviet piracy of American high technology has been made easier by the failure of U.S. intelligence agencies to figure out just what the Kremlin is after, a congressional report said yesterday.

By concentrating on trying to keep the Soviets from getting everything, the United States finds itself virtually unable to protect anything, one senator said.

The problem of stemming the flow of valuable American know-how to Moscow is outlined in a report prepared by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to be filed today.

The report was prepared by the committee's Democratic staff after an 18-month inquiry. It says the Soviet Union has succeeded in obtaining critical U.S. know-how — through black-market purchase, evasion of export controls or theft — in microelectronic,

laser, radar and precision equipment manufacturing.

To control the drain, "We must diagnose precisely the nature of current Soviet needs for our technology," the report said. "Through improved intelli-

gence, the government must determine what it is that the Soviets need and want and then model its response accordingly."

Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, the senior Democrat on the panel, said the Soviets have "finely tuned" their efforts to focus on areas of American technology "most suited to their precise needs."

"By contrast, American efforts to stem the transfer of technology have been largely unfocused and overly-broad in scope," he said. "By attempting to control everything, we have made it nearly impossible to adequately control anything."